



ACTE Legislative Alert: Senate Passes Perkins Reauthorization Bill

March 10, 2005

WHAT: Late this afternoon, the full Senate voted 99-0 to approve its Perkins reauthorization bill, S. 250, the "Carl D. Perkins Career and Technical Education Improvement Act of 2005."

Senator Clinton, out of town to be with former President Clinton during his surgery today in New York, was the only Senator not voting, and she too has expressed strong support for S. 250 as it was considered by the Senate Health, Education, Labor and Pensions Committee.

The version of S. 250 passed today by the Senate makes only minor changes to the bill the Senate Health, Education, Labor and Pensions Committee passed yesterday. The bill builds on current law and makes many positive changes, including separate secondary and postsecondary performance measures and enhanced local accountability provisions. The Senate bill maintains Tech Prep as a separate program, maintains state administration funding, and updates the language throughout the law from "vocational and technical" to "career and technical." The Senate bill also increases the coordination among Section 118, Tech Prep, and the Basic State Grant by offering states the option of a unified plan; increases the focus on career guidance and academic counseling, and includes new provisions allowing for more attention on the recruitment and retention of career and technical education professionals.

The Senate bill now awaits the House's passage of its version of reauthorization legislation, H.R. 366, and a conference committee to work out the differences between the House and Senate bills. Complete analysis of the Senate passed bill will be available soon on ACTE's Web site at

www.acteonline.org/policy/legislative_issues/Perkins_resources_109.cfm, and you can find background information about the House and Senate committee votes on S. 250 and H.R. 366 at www.acteonline.org/members/news/legislative_news/legupdate_030905.cfm.

ACTION NEEDED: Contact your Senators and thank them for their support of S. 250 and career and technical education. Ask them to continue this support as the Perkins reauthorization process continues to move forward to completion, and as budget and appropriations decisions are made for FY 2006. Contact information for your Senators is available through the Legislative Action Center on ACTE's Web site at <http://capwiz.com/acte/home/>.

BACKGROUND: Background information on the Perkins reauthorization can be found on ACTE's Web site at www.acteonline.org/policy/legislative_issues/carl_perkins.cfm,

and information about funding for career and technical education can be found at www.acteonline.org/policy/legislative_issues/federal-approp.cfm.

We appreciate your efforts! For more information, contact the Association for Career and Technical Education's Public Policy Department, 1410 King Street, Alexandria, VA 22315, 1-800-826-9972, www.acteonline.org.

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